

Cultural Council Minutes

June 16, 2010

Present: Kathy Feek, Leah Kliger, Amy Whittenburg, Jeff Parks, Sheila Mickool, Melissa Nelson, GG Getz, Erik Gordon, Cathy Heffron, Emily Hanna, Margit Moore, Rebecca Devere, Bhaj Townsend, Ellen Miller-Wolfe (staff) Julie Huffman (staff), Cate Foster (observer)

Absent: Bob Larson,

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting minutes were reviewed. Kathy made a motion to approve, motion seconded, and the motion carried.

REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

Elections

GG nominated Leah for Chair and Amy for Vice Chair. Motion seconded and carried.

Your Art-filled Month

Councilmembers told of recent art experiences. Chad Redhouse, new to the area from Santa Fe, does on-site portraits. His information: theredhouseproject@yahoo.com, phone 505-913-0395.

Budget Update

Julie reported on a draft spreadsheet of Cultural Council expenditures over the past 1.5 years, broken out by City on-going funds, one-time funds, 4Culture sustained and Stimulus funds. Discussion arose regarding presenting accomplishments to the City Council. Funding for staffing will run out end of 2010. Bhaj proposed adding a dollar amount to the accomplishments timeline. Council discussed the economic impact of the arts in Kirkland and how to exemplify this. Leah proposed bringing a draft of the data to the group.

Staff Report

Ellen reported on her discussions with the City Attorney about the Council's ability to fundraise. The Council may raise funds for themselves as long as those activities are for a "public purpose". Amy proposes things that we need to show when making a case for support: impact of giving, return on investment, personal story, case for support needs to be a community need that we are meeting. Emily offered to submit comments regarding growing up in an artsy town. All members of the council have projects or stories to contribute to "building the case" for the council. Leah would like members to respond individually to how to actualize each of the points that Amy proposed. Amy will send out an e-mail that people can respond to.

OLD BUSINESS

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Kirkland CACHET

Committee is finalizing an October date for their next event at Studio East. They did a survey and can present results at the next meeting. Luanne Erikson (Howard Mandville) proposed that Kirkland put on a Sorticulture event as Everett does. There is tourism money available—a total of \$40,000, with application due June 30th. Leah gathered information from the staffperson. It is staff intensive. It draws 13,000 visitors. Committee has heard for years that people do want a signature event, however not sure this is that event.

Foundation

Leah recapped that the Cultural Council as a City council cannot start a foundation, per recent discussions with City Council members. Sheila has done extensive research on starting a foundation. She suggested that we bring questions to the Cultural Council. Sheila sees 2 issues: one is funding. Foundation committee likely will

be the Funding committee instead (Plan B). Sheila is looking for the intersection of need, willingness to take action, and vision. Sheila had the Council respond to 3 questions. Sheila has spoken with a small sample of people who mention art and the waterfront as what they like. Concerns are Totem Lake, high rise condos downtown, impact of annexation on the feel of the town, transportation, and lack of arts funding. These concerns also echo those heard by Sheila in the community: business concerns. Members then reported who they would give money to: arts, dog park, ethnic festivals, hopelink. Sheila said that most in her sample would support the parks and art.

Leah reported that Bill Ballentine has discussed creating an endowment with Kirkland Art Center and Kirkland Performance Center. He would like to use the leverage of his own donation to raise funds from the community. Leah met with Mr. Ballentine and KAC representatives and is meeting with them again this week. Leah will report out after her meeting.

Funding committee needs to meet to brainstorm ideas of a signature event.

Artilizing Kirkland

Postponed for next meeting. Kathy would like to have time on the agenda next month. July meeting will address this.

Public/Private Art

Postponed for next meeting. Also needs time at next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS